

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 21, without prejudice or disclaimer. Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5, 11, 13, 15, and 22, as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus that manages a predetermined printing device for performing communication over a network, the apparatus comprising:

a holding unit configured to hold corresponding device identification information corresponding to the predetermined printing device, the device identification information including first device identification information and second device identification information;

an obtaining unit configured to obtain accounting information, ~~which includes~~ including a number of sheets printed, based on an image forming operation from the predetermined printing device;

a determination unit configured to compare a combination of ~~[[the]]~~ a first device identifier identification information and ~~[[the]]~~ a second device identifier received identification information ~~which are obtained from the predetermined printing device with the corresponding device identification~~ information held by said holding unit, and determine whether at least one of the first device identifier identification information and the second device identifier identification information is being managed;

a communication controlling unit configured to issue a notification to an external apparatus ~~[[when]]~~ if said determination unit determines that ~~one of the first device identification information~~ identifier is not being managed and the second device identifier identification

information is being managed ~~and the other~~ or if said determination unit determines that the first device identifier is being managed and the second device identifier is not being managed, and not to issue ~~[[a]]~~ the notification to the external apparatus ~~[[when]]~~ if said determination unit determines that neither ~~one of~~ the first device identifier identification information ~~[[and]]~~ ~~nor~~ the second device identifier identification information is being managed, the external apparatus being capable of receiving the notification through a predetermined communications line and managing a plurality of information processing apparatuses; and

an updating unit configured to update the corresponding device identification information held by said holding unit in accordance with an update notification, for updating ~~[[the]]~~ a combination of the first device identification information and the second device identification information, from the external apparatus,

wherein the notification issued by said communication controlling unit includes information indicating that either the first device identifier identification information or the second device identifier identification information is not being managed,

wherein, ~~said communication controlling unit restricts notifying the external apparatus of the accounting information obtained from the predetermined device by said obtaining unit~~ if said determination unit determines that ~~[[either]]~~ the first device identifier identification information is being managed and ~~[[or]]~~ the second device identifier identification information is not being managed or if said determination unit determines that the first identifier is not being managed and the second device identifier is being managed, said communication controlling unit restricts notifying the external apparatus of the accounting information obtained from the predetermined printing device by said obtaining unit and removes the restriction and notifies the external apparatus of the accounting information obtained by said obtaining unit

when until the corresponding device identification information is updated by said updating unit,
and

wherein the first device identification information includes internet protocol address information, and the second device identification information includes media access control (MAC) address information.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a receiving unit configured to receive the corresponding device identification information from the external apparatus through the communications line.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an inputting unit configured to input an instruction for updating at least one of the first device identification information and/or and the second device identification information,

wherein said communication controlling unit issues a notification for update, based on the update instruction input by said inputting unit, to the external apparatus.

6. - 10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) An information processing method for an information processing apparatus that manages a predetermined printing device for performing communication over a network, the method comprising:

holding corresponding device identification information corresponding to the predetermined printing device, the device identification information including first device identification information and second device identification information;

obtaining accounting information; ~~which includes~~ including a number of sheets printed, based on an image forming operation from the predetermined printing device;

comparing a combination of ~~[[the]]~~ a first device identifier identification information and ~~[[the]]~~ a second device identifier received identification information ~~which are obtained from the predetermined printing device with the corresponding device identification information held in said holding step~~, and determining whether at least one of the first device identifier identification information and the second device identifier identification information is being managed;

controlling issuance of a notification to notify an external apparatus ~~[[when]]~~ if a determination is made ~~said determining step determines that one of the first device identifier identification information is not being managed and the second device identifier identification information is being managed and the other~~ or if a determination is made that the first device identifier is being managed and the second device identifier is not being managed, and not to issue the notification to the external apparatus ~~[[when]]~~ if a determination is made ~~said determining step determines that neither one of the first device identifier identification information [[and]] nor the second device identifier identification information is being managed~~, the external apparatus ~~being capable of~~ receiving the notification through a predetermined

communications line and managing a plurality of information processing apparatuses; and

updating the corresponding device identification information held in said holding step in accordance with an update notification, for updating ~~[[the]]~~ a combination of the first device identification information and the second device identification information, from the external apparatus,

wherein the notification ~~issued in said controlling step~~ includes information indicating that either the first device identifier ~~identification information~~ or the second device identifier ~~identification information~~ is not being managed,

wherein, ~~said controlling step restricts notifying the external apparatus of the accounting information obtained from the predetermined device in said obtaining step if a determination is made said determining step determines either that~~ the first device identifier ~~identification information is being managed and~~ ~~[[or]]~~ the second device identifier ~~identification information is not being managed or if a determination is made that the first device identifier is not being managed and the second device identifier is being managed, notifying the external apparatus of the accounting information obtained from the predetermined printing device is restricted until~~ and removes the restriction and notifies the external apparatus of the accounting information obtained in said obtaining step to the external apparatus when the corresponding device identification information is updated in said updating step, and

wherein the first device identification information includes internet protocol address information, and the second device identification information includes media access control (MAC) address information.

13. (currently amended) An information processing method according to claim 11, further comprising receiving the corresponding device identification information from the external apparatus through the communications line.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) An information processing method according to claim 11, further comprising:

inputting an instruction for updating at least one of the first device identification information and/or and the second device identification information via an input section, wherein the communication controlling step issues a notification for update is issued, based on the update instruction input in the inputting step, to the external apparatus.

16. - 21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A recording medium that is readable by a computer storing a program that is executed by an information processing apparatus that manages a predetermined printing device for performing communication over a network, the program comprising code for including instructions that, when executed by the information processing apparatus, cause the information processing apparatus to perform a method comprising:

holding corresponding device identification information corresponding to the predetermined printing device, the device identification information including first device identification information and second device identification information;

obtaining accounting information, ~~which includes~~ including a number of sheets printed, based on an image forming operation from the predetermined printing device;

comparing a combination of ~~[[the]]~~ a first device identifier identification information and ~~[[the]]~~ a second device identifier ~~received~~ identification information which are obtained from the predetermined printing device with the corresponding device identification information held in said holding step, and determining whether at least one of the first device identifier identification information and the second device identifier identification information is being managed;

controlling issuance of a notification to notify an external apparatus ~~[[when]]~~ if a determination is made said determining step determines that ~~one of~~ the first device identifier identification information is not being managed and the second device identifier identification information is being managed ~~and the other~~ or if a determination is made that the first device identifier is being managed and the second device identifier is not being managed, and not to issue the notification to the external apparatus ~~[[when]]~~ if a determination is made said determining step determines that neither ~~one of~~ the first device identifier ~~nor~~ identification information and the second device identifier identification information is being managed, the external apparatus ~~being capable of~~ receiving the notification through a predetermined communications line and managing a plurality of information processing apparatuses; and

updating the corresponding device identification information held in said holding step in accordance with an update notification, for updating ~~[[the]]~~ a combination of the first device identification information and the second device identification information, from the external apparatus,

wherein the notification ~~issued in said controlling step~~ includes information

indicating that either the first device identifier identification information or the second device identifier identification information is not being managed,

wherein, said controlling step restricts notifying the external apparatus of the accounting information obtained from the predetermined device in said obtaining step to the external apparatus if a determination is made said determination step determines either that the first device identifier identification information is being managed and [[or]] the second device identifier identification information is not being managed or a determination is made that the first device identifier is not being managed and the second device identifier is being managed, notifying the external apparatus of the accounting information obtained from the predetermined printing device to the external apparatus is restricted until and removes the restriction and notifies the external apparatus of the accounting information obtained in said obtaining step to the external apparatus when the corresponding device identification information is updated in said updating step, and

wherein the first device identification information includes internet protocol address information, and the second device identification information includes media access control (MAC) address information.